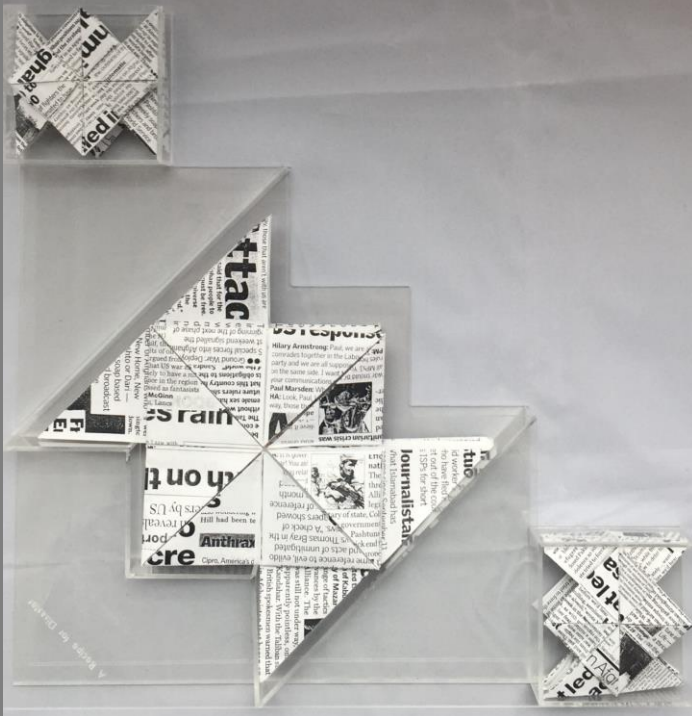


Transition and Ambiguity: Self-Identification Contextualizing Visual Art Production

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Overview

This semester I researched the artists' books in the Frick Fine Arts Library as a recipient of the Archival Scholar Research Award. During this independent study I explored the meaning of national identity in art production. I have found content illustrating the cultural, political and economic value of ascribing complex identities to artists, especially those that indicate national identity.



Method

I used a list of criteria when analyzing artists' books subject matter and the biographies of the artists to maintain consistency in understanding national identity. This process was supplemented by background research into artists' books, traditional book making and dimensions of nation-state in contemporary art. This has many implications for how we classify art and view its value in regards to nationhood.



Conclusion and Future

Through my research I have found that though some works use the context of artists' national identity as a means of expressing struggle, it is not universally sought after or attained. There are communities that exist in the present nation-state system that may not feel represented in a supposed national identity, and seek complimentary or comparative identities that transcend boundaries.

These works all show intense interconnectivities and patterns of human experience that are not limited to the demarcation of national borders. My work with these artists' books is a preliminary step for my research for a BPhil in Global Studies and will inform an annotated bibliography and abstract.

